

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01813 230937Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 IGA-02 AID-05
MED-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 HEW-06 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6611
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
US MISSION GENEVA 375

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1813

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MY
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA

REF: STATE 057902

1. THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE, 1952, THE BASIC MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT LAW, PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES OF UP TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, INCLUDING CANNABIS (WHICH IS DEALT WITH IN THE SAME MANNER AS OPIUM). THE PENALTY FOR TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS, INCLUDING CANNABIS, IS DEATH OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT PLUS WHIPPING. ANY PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF 100 GRAMS OF HEROIN OR MORPHINE, OR 1,000 GRAMS OF PREPARED OPIUM, OR 5 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM OR 200 GRAMS OF CANNABIS OR CANNABIS RESIN SHALL BE PRESUMED, UNTIL THE CONTRARY IS PROVED, TO BE TRAFFICKING. MALAYSIAN LAW TREATS CANNABIS AS A DANGEROUS DRUG AND MAKES LITTLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN IT AND OPIATES.

2. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, MALAYSIAN COURTS ASSIGN
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PAGE 02 KUALA 01813 230937Z

THE STIFFEST PENALTIES ONLY FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING HEROIN OR MORPHINE. THE LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND DEATH PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING HAVE ONLY BEEN ON THE BOOKS SINCE 1975, AND ALL OFFENDERS SO FAR SENTENCED TO THESE PENALTIES HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF HEROIN OR MORPHINE TRAFFICKING. NEVERTHELESS, THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT SENTENCES OF SIX TO NINE

MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF GANJA, AND AN AMERICAN
CURRENTLY DETAINED PENDING TRIAL HAS BEEN TOLD
THAT HE FACES A POSSIBLE SENTENCE OF NINE MONTHS
FOR POSSESSION OF 2.5 GRAMS OF CANNABIS.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, LAW
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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